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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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The following is information on the treatment of PWs with penicillin in the Borisov special hospital, White Russian SSR, in July 1949.

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1. The German physician in charge for several days treated two PW septic pleuritis cases with the prescribed penicillin injections.
2. The case histories indicated constant high fever and heavy purulent discharge.
3. The penicillin used was manufactured in the Soviet Union at a place unknown [redacted] Injections continued over a period of several days resulted only in a minimal decrease in fever and a hardly noticeable reduction of bacteria in the purulent discharge.
4. Continued injections resulted in an abrupt change for the better. The temperature of one of the patients dropped to near normal and the purulent discharge clarified. Complete recovery soon followed.
5. The second patient first showed an appreciable improvement. This improvement, however, proved to be only temporary; the fever recurred and the discharge resumed its malignant appearance.
6. The German physician in charge investigated and found that he had been erroneously issued penicillin of US make on one of the days of the treatment and possibly even on several days. The dosage given the one patient was sufficient to effect complete recovery, but the results were less beneficial in the other case, where subsequent treatment with Soviet penicillin resulted in a complete relapse.

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7. The physician in charge asked the hospital administration for additional doses of US penicillin, which he was given, obviously because the Soviet physicians wished to compare the effects of this penicillin with those obtained with the Soviet drug. The use of the US penicillin again produced complete recovery.
8. The German physician who had charge of these two cases was Maj (Med) Markgraf, who was discharged to the Soviet Zone of Germany on 22 December 1949 [redacted] his home is in the Erzgebirge (Its). Maj Markgraf was the German physician in charge of the ward for septic diseases in the special hospital. The laboratory work was done by Dr. Krokow, who also came from Saxony. It is believed that additional information on these cases can be supplied by Maj Markgraf's colleague, Dr. Benno Doster, a dentist who lives in Rendstal, near Stuttgart, and who was discharged from PW captivity in November 1949.
9. The Soviet hospital administration issued penicillin only in especially serious cases and even economized with the obviously inferior Soviet penicillin. The supply of US penicillin was negligible and in these special cases was presumably issued only by mistake. Most of it apparently came from wartime deliveries or deliveries immediately after the war.

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